

Next Meeting: June 5, 2002
10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 1, 2002, Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Carolyn Belknap Bartz, Jill Blixt, Martha Wilson (for Deborah Canja), Kathleen Clegg, Jill Jacobs, Kim Kaster, Patricia Keller, Brenda Kotsis, Shari Krishnan, Peggy McNeilly, Patricia Metz, Bob Opsommer, Ginny Palubin, Brian Pianosi, Sue Rabidioux, Debs Roush, Deb Russell, Patricia St. George, Marge Joslin (for Don Trap), Laurie VanderPloeg, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels, Anne White-O'Hara

Ex-Officio members: Mark Larson, Rosanne Renauer, Craig Sparks,
Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Michael DeVault, Glenda Hammond, Nancy Jackson, Pam Mish, Larry Simpson

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Sue Leach, Fran Loose

Guests: Richard Bernstein, Susan Brooks, Pansy Coleman, Phyllis Cox-Rebori, Sandi Laham, Linda Keway, Kathy Pistono, Steve Schwartz, Herb Yaminishi

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie VanderPloeg.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the May 1, 2002, meeting was considered. Patricia St. George moved, seconded by Deb Russell, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the April 3, 2002, meeting were considered. Attendance should reflect that Barbara Stork attended for Jill Jacobs and that Ginny Palubin was elected as an Executive Committee member, in place of Debs Roush. Martha Wilson moved, seconded by Patricia St. George, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Richard Bernstein, an attorney from Oakland County, addressed SEAC regarding his interest to run for the Michigan State Board of Education as a candidate with a disability. Mr. Bernstein believes that it is becoming increasingly important for there to be representation on the State Board of Education by a person with a disability or representation by a parent of a student with a disability. Mr. Bernstein indicated that he would be interested in running for a seat on the State Board of Education or if there is someone who might be more qualified for the position, he would support their efforts.

Pansy Coleman, a new Member-at-Large for 2002-2003 was introduced. Pansy is a parent of a child with a disability, the Chair of the Wayne County PAC, and a member of CAUSE.

Chairperson's Report – Laurie VanderPloeg

The results of the election of Executive Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the SEAC 2002-03 year are as follows: Shari Krishan has been elected as Executive Committee Chair and Steve Wessels has been elected as Vice Chair for the 2002-03 year.

The SEAC Committee of the Whole was asked to provide their feedback regarding the format of the SEAC notebook. Any suggestion or concerns should be noted so ideas and/or suggestions can be implemented when the 2002-03 notebooks are developed.

Laurie noted the Position Statement on Inclusive Education was not included on the agenda. With the absence of the Policy Committee Chair, Steve Wessels, from the April 3rd meeting, it was decided that this information should go back to committee for continued discussion.

SEAC members were reminded to complete meeting evaluations so that comments and suggestions can be taken into consideration for a more effective committee meeting.

A copy of the Question and Answer section of CEN Newslines from March 2002 was included with the SEAC mailing. This section covered Q & A with regard to the SEAC. The Center for Education Networking has given SEAC the opportunity to have on-going space in the CEN Newslines to share articles and informational updates. Currently, Shari Krishnan, Ginny Palubin, and Sandi Laham are preparing an article on the SIP committee's activities. If committees or SEAC member wish to provide information for publication in the CEN Newslines, they should contact the SEAC Executive Committee.

State Department Report – Jacquelyn Thompson

The No Child Left Behind Act is an intensive piece of public education policy. This policy is the driving force behind focusing on early literacy, training for teachers and many other topic areas. This policy will also target early intervention; making sure to pay attention to students' progress in the early grades. The Policy holds promise and challenges states in implementing from a resource and system change perspective. Discussion followed.

David Brock presented an update on the Proposed Rules for Special Education noting that the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has been in contact with the Office of Regulatory Reform and the Legislative Services Bureau regarding the wording of the Rules, not the concepts. Minor changes are being made with regard to the style but the review of the Draft Rules is on track with hopes for final authorization by July 1, 2002.

The early retirement option offered by the State of Michigan will have a great impact on the Department of Education. It may be possible that for every four state employees that retire there may be an opportunity to hire one new staff member.

At Jacques's request, Sandi Laham provided SEAC with a brief update regarding the Statewide Autism Resources & Training (START) program. Grand Valley State University hosted the first START statewide conference. The Conference outlined model programs that focus on intensive training on autism spectrum disorder. Done in collaboration with Oakland University, an on-line autism course received overwhelming feedback and participants requesting more on-line classes and asking when other endorsements will be available and when will parents and para-pros have access. Discussion followed.

Kathy Pistono provided an update on the Autism Subgrant 2, and their findings regarding Competencies for Teachers of Students with Autism. Kathy shared a draft copy of the survey findings outlining what were shown to be the most important competency areas.

State Board Meeting Report – Jacquelyn Thompson

The Board approved two ISD plans as well as the nominations to SEAC. Not all the SEAC seats have been filled at this time and more nominations will be reviewed at the May Board meeting.

In April, the Board approved the Accreditation Advisory Committee to assist with standard setting in order to align Michigan's accreditation standards with federal regulations

Information Items

A. State Improvement Grant (SIG) Update– Fran Loose

Materials on standards for staff development for the June Personnel Development Collaborative are currently being reviewed by special and general educators

The new SIG web-site is on-line at www.michigansig.org. The site demonstration, provided by CEN, reviewed several nice features including pages on validated and promising practices, on-line ordering of literature, an events calendar, and hot topics. Members of the SEAC are encouraged to visit the new web-site and take advantage of the information and services available.

Criteria for the RFP for PBS (Positive Behavior Support) is still being developed and it is expected to go to the June State Board of Education meeting. Upon approval, the RFP will go out for bid.

The school age subgroup of the CIMP (Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process) is being held until next fall due to lack of participation.

Laurie VanderPloeg reviewed the document, Process for Setting Annual Priorities.

B. Process for Setting Annual Priorities

At the June 5, 2002, meeting a list of anticipated needs/issues for the 2002-03 year will be developed. After the list has been identified, the needs/issues will be prioritized.

Action Items

A. Approval of Procedure #6, Filling Organizational Membership Vacancies

The Recommendation for Approval of Procedure #6, Filling Organizational Membership Vacancies was considered. Ginny Palubin moved, seconded by Steve Wessels to approve the Recommendations as written. The motion carried.

B. Approval of Bylaws Revisions

The Recommendation for Approval of Bylaws Revisions was considered. Marge Joslin moved, seconded by Brenda Kotsis to approve the Recommendation as written. The motion carried.

C. Approval of Procedure #5, Parliamentary Resource

The Recommendation for Approval of Procedure #5, Parliamentary Resource was considered. Deb Russell moved, seconded by Kim Kaster to approve the Recommendation as written. The motion carried.

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education — Mark Larson reported that on May 17 the Special Education Advisory Group is meeting all day to discuss becoming more involved with the SIG and CEC and determining who they want to align themselves with and how to strategically move forward. The group is gathering some very useful information and now needs to work to put it to use. Mark will provide an update in June.

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services – Rosanne Renauer reported that approximately 25% of the Michigan Department of Career Development staff is eligible for early retirement. It is expected that most of the employees that are eligible are managerial, and that the direct services, primarily field offices, will still be in a good position to provide services.

Committee Reports

Operations — Brian Pianosi reported that Operations Committee will have discussions around priorities and the calendar for the 2002-03 year.

Policy — Steve Wessels reported that the Policy Committee will have continued discussion regarding the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Placement Consideration document. Steve is hopeful that the group will come to a consensus on the wording and that the Recommendation to Update the State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education will be ready for a vote by the Committee of the Whole in June.

State Improvement Plan — Shari Krishnan reported that the Committee will review a draft of their report and finish the Committee's work for the year.

Member Issues

Bob Opsommer stressed the importance of using person-first language.

Kim Kaster informed SEAC that the Arc Michigan will be sponsoring 10 self advocates for training. Scheduled dates for the training sessions will be June 13 – 15, 2002. Interested parties should contact the Arc at 800-292-7851.

Shari Krishnan reported that Kathy Bradford is speaking at MAASE (Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education) in June regarding the Quality Assurance initiative.

Future Agenda Items:

The Committee has expressed an interest in seeing a presentation on school finance. A presentation could be scheduled for June or may be carried over until fall 2002.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Monica Butler
Recording Secretary